



Additional chart coverage may be found in CATP2, Catalog of Nautical Charts.

## SECTOR 12 — CHART INFORMATION

## SECTOR 12

### KINNAIRDS HEAD TO WHITING NESS

**Plan.**—The E coast of Scotland from Kinnairds Head to Whiting Ness is described in this sector. The descriptive sequence is from N to S.

#### General Remarks

**12.1** From Kinnairds Head, the coast extends 10 miles in a general SE direction to Peterhead and then SSW for 62 miles to Whiting Ness. It generally consists of rocky cliffs fringed by drying reefs, although there are some sandy stretches in places. Several rivers empty into the sea along this section of shore.

**Tides—Currents.**—The offshore currents between Kinnairds Head and Whiting Ness set fairly strongly and attain rates of 2 knots at springs off Rattray Head. They decrease in strength to the S. The times at which these offshore currents begin change fairly regularly.

In the vicinity of Rattray Head there is little or no difference between the times at which the currents begin near the land or offshore. However, farther S the difference is considerable, up to 1 hour 30 minutes off Scurdie Ness.

The E current from the S part of Moray Firth sets gradually SE and S round Rattray Head and joins the S offshore current. Similarly, the N offshore current divides and, while one branch trends NW and W into Moray Firth, the other branch continues N. From off Rattray Head, the currents run S and N, parallel to the coast.

At a position 5 miles NE of Rattray Head, the NW current begins 4 hours after HW at Dover and the SE current begins 2 hours 15 minutes before HW at Dover. These currents attain rates at springs of 1.5 to 2 knots.

At a position 4.5 miles SE of The Skares, the SSW current begins 2 hours before HW at Dover. It sets in a mean direction of 210° and attains a rate of 1.8 knots at springs. The NNE current begins 4 hours after HW at Dover. It sets in a mean direction of 025° and attains a rate of 1.7 knots at springs.

At a position 5.8 miles SE of Findon Ness, the S current begins 1 hour 15 minutes before HW at Dover. It sets in a mean direction of 185° and attains a rate of 1.5 knots at springs. The N current begins 5 hours after HW at Dover. It sets in a mean direction of 010° and attains a rate of 1.5 knots at springs.

At a position 9 miles E of Scurdie Ness, the S current begins 45 minutes before HW at Dover. It sets in a mean direction of 190° and attains a rate of 1.2 knots at springs. The N current begins 5 hours 30 minutes before HW at Dover. It sets in a mean direction of 010° and attains a rate of 1.3 knots at springs.

The current at the above four locations is nearly rectilinear, but changes from setting S to setting N though W and from setting N to setting S through E.

At a position about 5 miles E of Peterhead, the N tidal current begins about 4 hours after HW at Dover and the S tidal current begins about 2 hours 30 minutes before HW at Dover. These currents attain a maximum rate of 2.5 knots at springs.

In the area between Buchan Ness and Aberdeen Bay, the N tidal current begins 5 hours after HW at Invergordon and the S tidal current begins 2 hours before HW at Invergordon. The current, which is rotary, sets in a NNE direction and a SSW direction and attains a maximum rate of 1.8 knots at springs.

Off Aberdeen Bay, the tidal currents attain rates of 1 to 2 knots. The S current begins 2 hours 30 minutes before HW at Dover and the N current begins 3 hours 30 minutes after HW at Dover. The maximum rate of these currents observed at the anchorage in the bay was 1 knot.

The tidal current sets across the entrance to the harbor at Aberdeen. During heavy freshets from the River Dee, the current sets strongly out of the harbor and continues even near to the time of HW.

At Stonehaven Bay, the tidal currents are weak and do not attain rates exceeding 1 knot.

At Montrose, the chief difficulty in entering the harbor is the strength of the tidal currents. In the entrance, the W current or flood begins 3 hours before HW at Dover and the E current or ebb begins 3 hours 15 minutes after HW at Dover. Both of these currents are very strong and sometimes attain rates of up to 7 knots. The W current is strongest on the S side of the channel, but it does not attain any considerable strength during the first hour. The E current is strongest on the N side of the channel and sets strongly from its beginning to about 30 minutes before it ends. During this ebb current, the waters off the harbor entrance are turbulent and often dangerous for small craft.

When Annat Bank is dry, the currents set strongly through the whole length of the channel. However, when the bank is covered, they spread out and set across it, becoming weaker in the outer part of the channel. When the snow is melting, and during periods of heavy rain, both the duration and the rate of the ebb current are increased and the flood correspondingly reduced.

**Caution.**—Submarines, surfaced and dived, frequently exercise in the waters off this stretch of coast.

Seismic and other survey vessels may be encountered in the waters off this stretch of coast.

Drilling rigs and production platforms, associated with oil and gas development, may be encountered in the waters off this stretch of coast.

Numerous fishing vessels may be encountered in the waters described within this sector.

#### Off-lying Banks and Dangers

**12.2 Long Forties** (57°15'N., 0°00'W.), with general depths of 55 to 92m, extends 120 miles NE from the Firth of Forth. Several abrupt deeps lie on the E edge of this bank; Devils Hole, the deepest, has a depth of 238m and lies about 105 miles E of Whiting Ness.

**Buchan Deep** (57°30'N., 1°15'W.), lying between 12 and 20 miles E of Buchan Ness, extends NNE and has depths of 93 to 119m.

**Scalp** (56°36'N., 2°00'W.), formed by a group of shoal patches, lies about 17 miles E of Red Head and has a least depth of 31m. Several other shoal patches, with similar depths, lie up to about 5 miles S and 8 miles W of this group.

**Auk Oil Field** (56°24'N., 2°04'E.) lies about 140 miles ESE of Aberdeen. A combined drilling and production platform stands in this field; the top of the derrick attains a height of 90m and is conspicuous.

**Fulmar Oil Field** (56°29'N., 2°09'E.) and **Clyde Oil Field** (56°27'N., 2°17'E.) lie about 6 miles ENE and 8 miles NE, respectively, of Auk Oil Field. SPM buoys, for the use of tankers, are situated within these fields. A submarine pipeline, which may best be seen on the chart, extends SW from these fields to Saint Fergus.

**Montrose Oil Field** (57°27'N., 1°23'E.) lies about 115 miles ENE of Aberdeen. A combined drilling and production platform stands in this field.

**Arbroath Oil Field** (57°25'N., 1°23'E.) lies close S of Montrose Oil Field.

**Kittlwake Oil Field** (57°27'N., 0°31'E.), **Lomond Gas Field** (57°18'N., 2°10'E.), and **Gannett Oil Field** (57°13'N., 1°12'E.) lie 28 miles W, 27 miles ESE, and 18 miles SW, respectively, of Montrose Oil Field.

**Forties Oil Field** (57°44'N., 0°55'E.) lies 95 miles E of Kinnairds Head. Five production platforms are situated in this field and a submarine pipeline extends W from the field to Cruden Bay.

**Everest Gas Field** (57°45'N., 1°39'E.) lies 20 miles E of Forties Oil Field.

**Burchan Oil Field** (57°54'N., 0°02'E.) lies 68 miles ENE of Kinnairds Head. The production platform, which is situated in this field, is a converted semi-submersible drilling rig and two booms, from which excess gas is burned, extend 70m from it.

**Maureen Oil Field** (58°08'N., 1°42'E.) lies 36 miles NE of Forties Oil Field. The production platform in this field is connected by submarine pipeline to an articulated loading center situated close SE of it.

**Molra Oil Field** (58°02'N., 1°36'E.), **Cyrus Oil Field** (58°07'N., 1°21'E.), and **Andrew Oil Field** (58°04'N., 1°20'E.) lie 6 miles SSW, 11 miles W, and 12 miles WSW, respectively, of Maureen Oil Field.

**Balmoral Oil Field** (58°14'N., 1°06'E.) lies 32 miles N of Forties Oil Field. A production platform is situated in the center of this field.

**Glamis Oil Field** (58°10'N., 1°03'E.) lies 4 miles SW of Balmoral Oil Field.

**Blenheim Oil Field** (58°17'N., 1°00'E.), with a moored storage tanker, lies 4 miles W of Balmoral Oil Field.

**Claymore Oil Field** (58°27'N., 0°15'W.), with **Scapa Oil Field** (58°27'N., 0°14'E.) situated close W, lies 74 miles NE of Kinnairds Head. A production platform stands in this field and an intermediate compression platform (Total) stands along the submarine gas pipeline, 23 miles N of the field.

**Piper Oil Field** (58°28'N., 0°16'E.) lies 14 miles E of Claymore Oil Field. The production platform that stood in this field was destroyed by explosion (1988).

**Tartan Oil Field** (58°22'N., 0°04'E.) lies 11 miles SE of Claymore Oil Field. A production platform stands in this field.

**Highlander Oil Field** (58°23'N., 0°02'E.), **Petronella Oil Field** (58°21'N., 0°02'E.), and **Scott Oil Field** (57°20'N., 0°06'E.) lie close WNW, WSW, and SSE, respectively, of Tartan Oil Field.

**Chanter Oil Field** (58°23'N., 0°25'E.) lies 10 miles E of Tartan Oil Field.

**Ivanhoe and Rob Roy Oil Fields** (58°12'N., 0°07'E.) lie 11 miles S of Tartan Oil Field.

**Brae Oil Field** (58°41'N., 1°17'E.) lies 43 miles NE of Tartan Oil Field. Two production platforms, situated 6.2 miles apart, stand in the vicinity of this field.

**Birch Oil Field** (58°35'N., 1°17'E.), **Miller Oil Field** (58°41'N., 1°24'E.), and **Tiffany Oil Field** (58°29'N., 1°22'E.) lie 5.5 miles S, 5 miles E, and 13 miles S, respectively, of Brae Oil Field.

**Toni and Thelma Oil Fields** (58°22'N., 1°23'E.) lie 20 miles S of Brae Oil Field.

Additional fields include **Nelson Oil Field** (57°40'N., 1°09'E.), **Alba Oil Field** (58°04'N., 0°57'E.), **NW Balmoral Oil Field** (58°18'N., 0°47'E.) and **Saltire Oil Field** (58°25'N., 0°20'E.).

For gas and oil fields situated N and E of the above fields, see Pub. 182 Sailing Directions (Enroute) North and West Coasts of Norway.

## Kinnairds Head to Aberdeen

**12.3 Kinnairds Head** (57°42'N., 2°00'W.), the SE entrance point of Moray Firth, is a grassy point, 18m high, which is fringed by drying ledges. A main light is shown from a prominent tower, 23m high, standing on the head.

Mormond Hill, 227m high, rises 6 miles S of the head. Its summit is surmounted by a prominent television mast which is equipped with aeronautical lights.

A lighted buoy is moored 2 miles N of the head. This buoy has no navigational significance and is for the use of aircraft operating in the target bombing range area lying W of Rosehearty. (See Sector 11).

**Fraserburgh Bay** (57°41'N., 1°58'W.) is entered between Kinnairds Head and Cairnbulg Point, 2.3 miles ESE. The head of the bay is free of dangers and is fronted by a sandy beach. The Water of Philorth, a small river, flows into the SE part of the bay.

**Colonel Rock** (57°42'N., 1°58'W.), with a depth of 9.4m, lies about 1.5 miles NW of Cairnbulg Point, in the middle of the approach to the bay. This rock is small and, on account of broken water, is dangerous to cross in heavy weather.

**12.4 Fraserburgh Harbor** (57°41'N., 2°00'W.) ([World Port Index No. 32240](#)), an important fishing center, lies on the W side of Fraserburgh Bay, close S of Kinnairds Head. It consists of a series of inter-connected basins and is enclosed by Balaclava Pier and Balaclava Breakwater, on the N side, and by South Breakwater, on the S side.

**Tides—Currents.**—Tides rise about 3.7m at springs and 2.9m at neaps.

**Depths—Limitations.**—Between Kinnairds Head and the harbor entrance, 0.5 mile SSE, the shore is bordered by rocky

ledges which extend up to about 300m seaward. The area lying close S of the harbor entrance is foul.

Several shoals, with depths of less than 5m, lie close SE of the head of Balaclava Breakwater and Burnett Buss, with a depth of 0.3m, lies close SE of the head of South Breakwater.

The entrance to Outer Harbor, which provides access to all the other basins, faces ESE and is 61m wide. Most of the harbor basins are dredged to a depth of 3.4m.

Balaclava Harbor, formed by three basins, has 1,189m of quayage and an entrance 17m wide. It has a depth of 7.3m at HWS and can accommodate vessels of up to 84m in length, 14m beam, and 5.5m draft.

North Harbor has 360m of quayage, with an entrance 24.3m wide, and South Harbor has 579m of quayage with an entrance 11.6m wide. Both these basins have depths of 7.5m at HWS. Faithlie Basin has 760m of quayage, an entrance 15.2m wide, and a depth of 6.4m at HWS.

Vessels of up to 91m in length, 12.8m beam, and 5.4m draft can be accommodated at North Pier which is situated at the NW side of Outer Harbor. There are facilities for fishing vessels, yachts, coasters, and oil service supply vessels.

**Aspect.**—The entrance channel is indicated by a lighted range. Two conspicuous church spires and a tower, with a turret, are situated in the town.

**Pilotage.**—Pilotage is compulsory for vessels over 50 grt. Vessels should send an ETA 2 hours in advance. Pilots can be contacted by VHF and generally board in the bay or by arrangement within 2 miles of the harbor entrance.

**Anchorage.**—Anchorage is available within Fraserburgh Bay in a depth of 11m, sand over rock, about 0.5 mile E of the harbor entrance.

**Caution.**—Hydraulically operated storm gates are fitted to the entrances of several harbor basins for use in bad weather.

**12.5 Cairnbulg Point** (57°41'N., 1°57'W.), the E entrance point of Fraserburgh Bay, is fronted by Cairnbulg Briggs, a drying rock ledge, which extends up to 0.3 mile N. This ledge is fringed by reefs, awash, and is marked by a lighted beacon. A small boat harbor lies on the NW side of the point.

Steratan Rock, with a least depth of 8.8m, lies about 1.5 miles NE of Cairnbulg Point and the sea breaks heavily over it during strong winds.

Cairnbulg and Inverallochy, two small villages separated by a stream, are situated 0.5 mile SE of Cairnbulg Point. Saint Combs, another small village, is situated 1 mile farther SE.

Strathbeg Bay, a slight indentation, lies between Inzie Head, located 2 miles SE of Cairnbulg Point, and Rattray Head, 4 miles SE. A narrow rocky ledge, with depths of less than 10m, extends about 1 mile E from Inzie Head. The shore of the bay is fringed by a sandy beach. Loch Strathbeg lies close inland, within the sandhills which form the SW side of the bay.

**Caution.**—Numerous wrecks, which may best be seen on the chart, lie off this stretch of coast.

**12.6 Rattray Head** (57°37'N., 1°49'W.) is composed of sandhills which are partly covered with bent grass. This headland is higher than the sandy ridges rising to the N and S of it and is fringed by drying rocks. A main light is shown from a conspicuous tower, 34m high, standing on The Ran (Ron



RATTRAY HEAD LIGHT

Rock), a rock, which lies 0.2 mile E of the headland. A racon is situated at the light.

Rattray Briggs, a detached reef, lies about 0.2 mile E of the light and has a least depth of 0.2m. Rattray Hard, with a least depth of 10.7m, is an area of uneven, rocky bottom which lies centered 1.5 miles ENE of the headland. The tidal currents set over this area of uneven bottom and raise a heavy sea in the vicinity of the headland during onshore gales.

Two prominent radio masts stand 2 miles WNW of Rattray Head and another one stands 2 miles W.

**Rattray Bay** (57°35'N., 1°48'W.) lies between Rattray Head and Scotstown Point, 3 miles S, and is open. Scotstown Hard, a drying ridge of large stones, extends 0.5 mile E from Scotstown Point. The bay shelves gradually to a shoreline composed of sandy hills. Annachie Water, an abandoned canal, empties into the S part of the bay.

**Caution.**—Several submarine pipelines, which may best be seen on the chart, extend seaward from Rattray Bay to the offshore oil and gas fields. A gas terminal is situated in the vicinity of the village of Saint Fergus, which stands near the S end of the bay.

**12.7 Kirkton Head** (57°33'N., 1°48'W.), located 1 mile S of Scotstown Point, is fronted by a drying rocky ridge which extends up to 0.5 mile seaward. Craig Ewan, a projecting point, is located 1 mile S of Kirkton Head.

Buchanhaven, a small village, is situated on the S side of the Ugie River which flows into the sea 0.5 mile S of Craig Ewan. Foul ground fronts the mouth of this river and extends up to 0.5 mile offshore. The village is fronted by a small harbor which lies among the rocks on the S side of the river mouth and is used by local fishing boats.

**12.8 Peterhead Harbor** (Peterhead Bay Harbor) (57°30'N., 1°47'W.) ([World Port Index No. 32230](#)), an important fishing center, lies within Peterhead Bay. The bay, a deep indentation, is entered between Keith Inch, a promontory, and Salthouse Head, 0.7 mile SW. It is protected by breakwaters which form an entrance 198m wide.

**Tides—Currents.**—Tides rise about 3.8m at springs and 3.1m at neaps.

**Depths—Limitations.**—Peterhead Harbor, consisting of three inter-connecting tidal basins and several jetties, lies at the N end of the bay and is mostly used by fishing vessels. It has about 1,700m of total quayage with dredged depths of 2.1 to 3.4m alongside. These basins can accommodate vessels of up





PETERHEAD HARBOR

to 92m in length and 10.4m beam with drafts up to 6.1m at springs and 5.5m at neaps.

Peterhead Bay Harbor includes all the facilities in the bay with the exception of the above basins.

Albert Quay, situated at the outer entrance to the basins, has 225m of berthage with depths of 8 to 9.5m alongside.

There are two offshore-supply vessel bases within the bay. The N base, situated close W of the root of the N breakwater, consists of a jetty, 230m long, with a depth of 7m alongside.

The inner part of the N breakwater provides 230m of berthage with a depth of 14m alongside. It can accommodate bulk vessels of up to 15,000 dwt and is also used by drilling rigs, oil platforms, and supply vessels.

The S base, lying in the S part of the bay, consists of a quay, 470m long, with a depth of 6.8m alongside.

A tanker terminal is situated close W of the S breakwater and consists of several berthing and mooring dolphins. It can accommodate tankers of up to 50,000 dwt, 250m in length, and 11.5m draft. This terminal berth is also used by bulk, diving, survey, and supply vessels.

The inner part of the S breakwater provides 390m of berthage with a depth of 7.8m alongside.

A new jetty (Princess Royal), which extends NW from the SW part of the bay, is 175m long and has a depth of 6.8m alongside.

**Aspect.**—The entrance channel is indicated by a lighted range. A light is shown from a tripod structure, 10m high, standing on the N breakwater head. Another light is shown from a tower, 17m high, standing on the S breakwater head.

Conspicuous landmarks include the spire of the town hall, with an illuminated clock, standing 0.5 mile N of S breakwater head; a storage tank standing 1.2 miles WSW of the spire; a square tower surmounting a hill which rises 1 mile SW of the spire; and a power station chimney standing 1 mile SSE of the square tower.

**Pilotage.**—Pilotage is compulsory within the bay for all tankers, vessels of 3,500 grt and over, all vessels damaged in any way, and all vessels carrying dangerous cargoes. Pilotage is compulsory within Peterhead Harbor for all vessels over 50 grt. Exemptions from the above include vessels of less than 20m in length and fishing vessels of less than 47.5m in length.

Vessels should contact the harbor by VHF at least 1 hour in advance. Pilots can be contacted by VHF and generally board about 0.3 mile SE of the bay entrance or close inside the breakwaters during bad weather. Vessels anchored within the bay must maintain a VHF listening watch at all times.

**Anchorage.**—Anchorage may be obtained in depths of 9 to 13m within the bay. The best holding ground, with a bottom of fine sand over blue clay or mud, lies under the lee of the S breakwater.

**Caution.**—During strong E winds, seas frequently break over both breakwaters and a heavy ground swell may be experienced within the bay. During E gales, the rise of tide may be decreased.

**12.9 Sandford Bay** (57°29'N., 1°47'W.) is entered between Salthouse Head, the S entrance point of Peterhead Bay, and Meikle Mackie, a small islet, 0.8 mile SSE, which lies close N of Buchan Ness. The bay is foul and fringed with drying ledges. An outfall pipeline extends 0.3 mile SE from the NW shore of the bay and its seaward end is marked by a lighted buoy. Vessels with local knowledge can anchor in the bay, which has good holding ground of mud over clay, but clear of the pipeline.

**Buchan Ness** (57°28'N., 1°46'W.), a rocky and rugged peninsula, is fringed by drying ledges and connected to the mainland by a narrow isthmus. A main light is shown from a conspicuous tower, 35m high, standing on the center of this peninsula. A racon is situated at the light.



BUCHAN NESS LIGHT

The Skerry, a small rocky islet, lies 0.5 mile NNE of the light and is 6m high. Rocks, which break, fringe the N side of the islet and foul ground extends up to about 0.2 mile NNE of it.

Stirling Hill, 86m high, stands 0.7 mile SW of Buchan Ness and is prominent. A conspicuous structure (radar aerial) is situated 0.5 mile WSW of the hill, in the vicinity of some granite quarries.

Between Buchan Ness and Ward Point, 4 miles SSW, the rugged and steep-to shore is formed by red granite cliffs, 30 to 73m high, which are broken by deep coves and recesses. Several detached masses of rock lie close off the foot of these cliffs.

**12.10 Cruden Bay** (57°24'N., 1°50'W.), a small bight, lies between Ward Point and The Skares, 1.5 miles SSW. Cruden Burn flows into the N corner of the bay and Port Errol, a small boat harbor, lies in this vicinity. The ruins of a castle (Slains Castle) are situated close N of the point and Slains Lodge, a conspicuous building, stands 0.7 mile NNW of them.

The Skares, consisting of several drying granite rocks, extends up to about 0.3 mile seaward from the S entrance point of the bay. The outermost and tallest rock, which is 3m high, is marked by a lighted buoy.

Two conspicuous oil tanks stand 1 mile SW of the S entrance point of the bay.

**Caution.**—A submarine pipeline, which may best be seen on the chart, extends seaward from the S part of Cruden Bay to an offshore oil field.

**Hackley Head** (57°20'N., 1°57'W.), a rather prominent point, is located 4.8 miles SW of The Skares. The rocky shore changes in the vicinity of this point to sand backed by grass-covered sandhills. Slains Old Castle, consisting of a dark and prominent ruined tower, stands on a projection, 2.2 miles NE of the point. Blindman, a rock, lies close seaward of the castle.

Colliestown, a village, is situated 1.2 miles NE of the point and is fronted by a small fishing boat harbor.

The Ythan River flows into the sea 1.8 miles SSW of Hackley Head and two bare, white sandhills stand on the N side of its mouth. A bar, which has a depth of 3.4m at HWS, fronts the river entrance, but is constantly changing. Newburgh, a small harbor, lies at the S side of the river, about 1 mile within the entrance. It is used by small craft with local knowledge.

Hill of Strabathie, 51m high, stands 6 miles SSW of the mouth of the Ythan River and is prominent. A conspicuous silo stands close SW of this hill.

The River Don flows into the sea 2.1 miles S of Hill of Strabathie. A bridge, with four arches, spans this river close inside the entrance and is conspicuous from seaward. A light is shown from a tower, 8m high, standing on the S entrance point of the river and a prominent radio mast surmounts the summit of a hill which rises 5.2 miles W of it. Another prominent radio mast stands 2.5 miles WSW of the river mouth.

**Caution.**—A submarine cable extends seaward from a point on the shore located 0.5 mile NE of Hill of Strabathie.

A firing exercise area, marked by lighted buoys, lies 1 mile E of Hill of Strabathie and may best be seen on the chart.

Several salmon fisheries lie off the coast between the Ythan River and Aberdeen and present a danger to small craft navigating inshore.

A measured distance (1,853.2m), marked by beacons, lies 1 mile S of the River Don and may best be seen on the chart.

## Aberdeen (57°09'N., 2°05'W.)

[World Port Index No. 32220](#)

**12.11** The port of Aberdeen lies along the N shore of the mouth of the River Dee which flows into the SW part of Aberdeen Bay. This bay is bordered on the S side by a promontory of which Girdle Ness forms the E extremity. The port is an important fishing center and a main supply base for the offshore oil and gas fields. The harbor entrance is protected by two breakwaters.

**Tides—Currents.**—Tides rise about 4.3m at springs and 3.4m at neaps.

**Depths—Limitation.**—The entrance channel has been dredged to a depth of 6m, but this depth may not always be maintained due to silting.

The main facilities include Tidal Harbor, which has 1,574m of quayage with depths of 8.4 to 13.3m alongside at HWS; Albert Basin, which has 1,525m of quayage with depths of 8.4 to 13.7m alongside at HWS; River Dee, which has 811m of quayage with depths of 8.5 to 10.9m alongside at HWS; River Dee Dock, which has 410m of quayage with depths of 9.4 to 10.9m alongside at HWS; Upper Dock, which has 429m of quayage with depths of 9.1 to 10.4m alongside at HWS; Victoria Dock, which has 1,500m of quayage with depths of 10.4 to 13.7m alongside at HWS; and Telford Dock, which has 520m of quayage with depths of 9.3 to 13.3m alongside at HWS.

The deep-water berths include Atlantic Wharf, 129m long, with a dredged depth of 8.7m alongside; Pacific Wharf, 209m long, with a dredged depth of 9.3m alongside; Waterloo Quay West, 172m long, with a dredged depth of 9.3m alongside; and Regent East Quay, 254m long, with a dredged depth of 9.3m alongside.

There are facilities for general cargo, timber, bulk, tanker, ferry, passenger, ro-ro, and fishing vessels. There are also several extensive bases for offshore oil and gas field support vessels.

Generally, vessels of up to 160m in length and 24.4m beam can enter the port with drafts up to 9.3m at springs and 8.3m at





ABERDEEN HARBOR FROM W



ABERDEEN HARBOR FROM E

neaps. It was reported (1995) that vessels of up to 166m in length and 23,800 dwt have been accommodated within the harbor after special consultation with the authorities.

**Aspect.**—The entrance channel is indicated by a lighted range which may best be seen on the chart. When conditions in the entrance channel are hazardous, the fixed red lights of the range are changed to green. An outer approach lighted buoy, equipped with a racon, is moored about 1 mile NE of the harbor entrance.

The red and conical roof of a dance hall building, standing 0.8 mile NW of the N breakwater head, is very conspicuous. A gasometer tank and a pavilion, standing about 0.4 mile NW and 0.3 mile S, respectively, of the dance hall building, are very prominent. The tower of Marischal College, standing 1.2 miles WNW of the N breakwater head, is conspicuous and several other buildings, standing close S and SE of it, are prominent.

**Pilotage.**—Pilotage is compulsory except for the following:

1. All vessels under 60m in length.
2. Vessels of 60m and over, but less than 75m in length, which are fitted with at least one operational bow thruster unit.
3. Vessels moving from berth to berth within the harbor with the permission of the harbor authority.

Vessels should send an ETA and a request for pilotage at least 1 hour in advance to the port control authority. Pilots can be contacted by VHF and generally board in the vicinity of the outer approach lighted buoy. All vessels intending to enter the harbor should report to the port control authority, which is equipped with surveillance radar, on their arrival within Aberdeen Bay.

**Anchorage.**—Vessels can anchor as convenient in depths of 9 to 11m, sand, within Aberdeen Bay.

**Caution.**—When entering the port during adverse weather conditions, vessels should assess the effects of the wind and tidal current while still seaward of the outer approach lighted buoy. Entry should not be attempted during strong NE gales when the seas are the heaviest.

With S and SE winds, vessels should guard against the strong N set which may be experienced in the vicinity of the N breakwater head, especially during freshets.

A disused explosives dumping area, which may best be seen on the chart, lies about 3 miles E of the harbor entrance.

## Aberdeen to Whiting Ness

**12.12 Girdle Ness** (57°08'N., 2°03'W.) is the E extremity of the promontory which forms the S side of Aberdeen Bay. It is 23m high and fronted by drying ledges. A main light is shown from a conspicuous tower, 37m high, standing on the point. A racon is situated at the light.



GIRDLE NESS LIGHT

Girdlestone, a rock, lies about 0.2 mile ENE of the light and has a least depth of 1.9m. The channel leading between this rock and the coast is foul.

Between Girdle Ness and Garron Point, 10.5 miles SSW, the coast consists mainly of steep cliffs which are formed of mica slate over granite and topped by grassy slopes. The cliffs are fringed by reefs in places and several detached rocks lie up to 0.3 mile offshore.

**12.13 Nigg Bay** (57°08'N., 2°03'W.) lies between Girdle Ness and Gregg Ness, 0.5 mile S, and is fringed by rocky, foul ground. Gregg Ness is a rocky promontory fronted by foul ground and drying patches. The Hasman, a rock, lies close offshore, 1 mile S of this promontory, and dries 3.6m.

A prominent radio mast, 74m high, stands 1.8 miles SW of Gregg Ness. Cove Bay, a village, is situated 2 miles SSW of Gregg Ness and fronted by a small fishing boat harbor. Mutton Rocks and Cove Rocks, which dry 2.1m, lie close seaward of this harbor.

**Caution.**—Oil drilling rigs are frequently anchored in an area centered 5 miles SE of Gregg Ness and within Nigg Bay.

A spoil ground area, which may best be seen on the chart, lies 1.6 miles SE of Gregg Ness.

An outfall pipeline, partially buried, extends up to 1 mile E of Gregg Ness and is marked by a lighted buoy.

**12.14 Findon Ness** (57°04'N., 2°05'W.), a very prominent headland, is located 4 miles SSW of Gregg Ness and is steep-to. The village of Findon stands on the sloping ground which rises to a height of 90m, close W of the headland.

Several radio masts, 110m high, stand 1.8 miles W of the headland and a prominent memorial tower surmounts a hill which rises 1.2 miles WSW of them.

Portlethen, a small village, stands 1 mile SW of Findon Ness. It has a convenient landing for local fishing boats and is fronted by a drying reef. Seal Craig, the outermost part of this reef, dries 2.1m and lies 0.3 mile offshore.

**Garron Point** (56°59'N., 2°10'W.), a high and rocky promontory, is located 5 miles SSW of Portlethen. Several villages, fronted by landing places, are situated along this stretch of coast. The promontory is narrow, shelves 0.2 mile from its summit, and is steep-to. Garron Rock, an isolated rocky mass, lies close off the point.

**12.15 Stonehaven Bay** (56°58'N., 2°12'W.) is entered between Garron Point and Downie Point, 1.5 miles SSW. This bay has a sandy bottom, but is encumbered by rocky ledges which extend up to about 0.3 mile offshore.

**Stonehaven** (56°58'N., 2°12'W.), a small harbor, lies near the mouth of the River Carron, at the head of the bay. It consists of inner and outer basins and is protected by breakwaters. The outer basin has a depth of 1.5m and the inner harbor dries. The harbor, which has 550m of quayage, is mostly used by yachts and pleasure craft, but a few local fishing boats are based here. Vessels of up to 34m in length and 3m draft can enter at HW. During E and SE gales, the sea breaks over the breakwaters with great force.

The town, which is a resort, backs the harbor and several prominent hotels are situated in it. A conspicuous railroad viaduct stands 1 mile NNW of the outer breakwater head. A





*Photo courtesy of Scotland Gazetteer*

#### STONEHAVEN HARBOR

prominent radio mast surmounts the summit of a hill which rises 6.5 miles NW of the harbor and a television mast stands 1.5 miles SW of it.

**12.16 Downie Point** ( $56^{\circ}57'N.$ ,  $2^{\circ}11'W.$ ), the S entrance point of Stonehaven Bay, is marked by a light and fringed with rocky ledges. A detached shoal, with a depth of 3.9m, lies about 0.2 mile NNE of the point.

Strathlethan Bay is entered between Downie Point and Bowdun Head and is fringed by rocky ledges. A conspicuous war memorial stands on Black Hill at the head of this small bay. It is 12m high and has the appearance of a ruined temple. The prominent ruins of Dunnottar Castle are situated on a small headland, 0.3 mile SW of Bowdun Head.

Crawton Ness is located 2.5 miles S of Bowdun Head. Cliffs, 91m high, rise close N of this low point. A conspicuous radio tower stands on Burxie Hill, which rises 3.5 miles W of the point. Crawton, a small fishing village, fronted by a gravel beach, stands on the W side of the point. Caterline, another small fishing village, stands 1 mile farther S.



TODHEAD POINT LIGHT

**12.17 Todhead Point** ( $56^{\circ}53'N.$ ,  $2^{\circ}13'W.$ ) is located 1.5 miles SSW of Crawton Ness. A few small fishing villages stand along this stretch of coast. This point terminates in a cliff,

15m high. A light is shown from a prominent tower, 13m high, standing on the point.

Shield Hill is located 1.5 miles S of Todhead Point. This headland has an overhanging cliff and a high rock lies close off its SE side.

Craig David is located 2.8 miles SW of Todhead Point. A conspicuous radio mast stands on Bervie Brow which is 136m high and rises close W of this point.



*Photo courtesy of Scotland Gazetteer*

#### GOURDON HARBOR

Inverbervie, a small town, stands on the S bank of Bervie Water, 0.5 mile SW of Craig David. A church, with a prominent tower, is situated in this town. The coast extending to the S of this town is backed by grassy slopes, 15m to 21m high. Gourdon, a small drying harbor, lies 1 mile SSW of Inverbervie and is protected by breakwaters. It is used by local

fishing boats and pleasure craft. A lighted range indicates the entrance channel.

**Johnshaven** (56°48'N., 2°20'W.), a small drying harbor, lies 2 miles SW of Gourdon. It provides good shelter in all weathers and is used by local fishing boats. A lighted range indicates the entrance channel which is narrow and leads through a rocky foreshore.

The Tower of Johnston stands on the Hill of Garvock, 4 miles W of the harbor, and is conspicuous from seaward.

**12.18 Milton Ness** (56°46'N., 2°23'W.), fringed by rocks, is a wedge-shaped headland with its SE end formed by a low and grassy point. Cliffs, which are known as the Heughs of Saint Cyrus, stand close W of the headland and are about 70m high. Saint Cyrus is situated close inland from these cliffs. A church, with a conspicuous tall spire, stands in this small village.

Between Milton Ness and Montrose, 3.5 miles S, the coast is fronted by a sandy beach and backed by sandhills. The North Esk River flows into the sea, 1.5 miles SW of the headland. A conspicuous radio tower, 37m high, stands close inland, 2 miles SSW of Saint Cyrus. It is surmounted by six framework masts, each 20m high. A prominent bridge spans the North Esk River, 1 mile W of the mouth.

**Scurdie Ness** (56°42'N., 2°26'W.), a prominent headland, forms the S side of the entrance to Montrose. A main light is shown from a conspicuous tower, 39m high, standing on this point. A racon is situated at the light.



SCURDIE NESS LIGHT

Scurdie Rocks lie on a spit which extends up to 0.2 mile E of the headland. Conspicuous beacons are situated close W of the headland and form a range which leads clear of these rocks.

**12.19 Montrose** (56°42'N., 2°28'W.) ([World Port Index No. 32200](#)), a small commercial port, lies at the entrance to the River South Esk, on the N side of Scurdie Ness. The town stands on a low and sandy peninsula, on the N side of the river, which separates Montrose Basin from the sea. The harbor, which is formed by the outlet of the basin flowing into the river, is a fishing center and also serves as an important supply base for the offshore oil fields.

**Tides—Currents.**—Tides rise about 4.8m at springs and 3.9m at neaps.

**Depths—Limitations.**—Montrose Basin, which dries, lies W of the town, at the head of the harbor. Two bridges span the entrance to this basin and have a vertical clearance of only 3m. Small vessels can lie aground in very soft mud within the basin.

The entrance channel leads between the N side of Scurdie Ness and Annat Bank, which dries in places and extends E



Photo courtesy of Scotland Gazetteer

MONTROSE ROAD BRIDGE

from the N entrance point of the river. The fairway is 50m wide and is dredged to a depth of 5.5m, but is subject to silting.

There is 558m of quayage at the N side of the harbor with dredged depths of 5.5m alongside. There is 480m of quayage at the S side of the harbor with dredged depths of 5.5m alongside. A deep-water berth, 150m long, has a dredged depth of 7.3m alongside. There are facilities for general cargo, ro-ro, and fishing vessels. In addition, there are extensive facilities for offshore oil service vessels. Vessels of up to 17,000 dwt, 165m in length, and 7.6m draft can be handled at HW. It is reported that vessels over 135m in length must be fitted with a bow thruster.

**Aspect.**—The entrance fairway is indicated by a lighted range and marked by lighted buoys. An outer approach lighted buoy is moored about 0.5 mile NE of Scurdie Ness.

A church, with a conspicuous spire, and a conspicuous silo stand in the S part of the town.

**Pilotage.**—Pilotage is compulsory for all commercial vessels except fishing craft. Pilots can be contacted by VHF and board 0.85 mile E of Scurdie Ness. Vessels should send an ETA 24 hours in advance and then contact the harbor 2 hours before arrival. Vessels should remain to the E of the outer lighted buoy when embarking the pilot.

**Anchorage.**—Vessels can anchor in depths of 15 to 20m, good holding ground, about 2 miles NE of Scurdie Ness, but this roadstead is exposed.

**Caution.**—During strong gales from the E, a heavy sea is often raised off the entrance and entry is dangerous at all states of the tide.

**12.20 Lunan Bay** (56°39'N., 2°30'W.) is entered between Boddin Point, located 2.1 miles SW of Scurdie Ness, and the NE extremity of Red Head, 2.5 miles S. The ruins of Red Castle stand on a sandy beach near the center of this bay, on the S side of the mouth of Lunan Water. Except for rocky ledges fronting both entrance points, this bay is free of off-lying dangers and very little tidal current is experienced within it.

Good anchorage can be obtained in depths of 12 to 15m, sand over clay, within the bay, about 1 mile E of the ruins of Red Castle.

**Caution.**—A spoil ground area, which may best be seen on the chart, lies 1.3 miles SE of Boddin Point. Several wrecks lie in the approaches to Lunan Bay and may best be seen on the chart.

**12.21 Red Head** (56°37'N., 2°29'W.) is formed by a cliff, 79m high. It is steep-to and fronted by rocks. A very conspicuous silo stands 1.2 miles SW of the summit of Red Head.

**Whiting Ness** (56°34'N., 2°33'W.), the N entrance point of the approaches to the River Tay, is located 4 miles SW of Red Head.

The coast between consists of red sandstone cliffs which are broken occasionally by small bights and caverns. Dickmount's Den, the largest of these caverns, lies 0.3 mile NE of Whiting Ness. Beacons are situated on The Deils Heid, close NE of Dickmount's Den, and on a point located 1 mile NE. They are prominent and formerly indicated a measured distance.

Dickmontlaw, a small hill, rises 1.5 miles NNW of Whiting Ness and is surmounted by a clump of prominent tall trees.